

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 200918Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: NATURE OF "CONSULTATIONS" AT INITIAL BARANGAY
REFERENDUM SESSIONS

REF: MANILA 8203

BEGIN SUMMARY: QUESTIONS CIRCULARIZED TO RESIDENTS OF
A MAKATI BARANGAY FOR JULY 21/22 MEETINGS DEAL ONLY
WITH NATIONAL ISSUES: I.E. LENGTH OF EXTENSION OF
PRESIDENT'S TERM, ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIALLY-
APPOINTED LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (LAC) AND
ASSIGNMENT TO THIS COUNCIL TASK OF DETERMINING
PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSOR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE INITIAL BARANGAY MEETINGS, FIRST SCHEDULED FOR
JULY 24 AND SINCE RESCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON EITHER
JULY 21 OR 22, WERE ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED AS PRIMARILY
TO DEAL WITH LOCAL ISSUES. INCREASINGLY THESE MEETINGS
HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED IN MEDIA AND OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
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IN CONTEXT THAT VIEWS THEM AS PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR

FORMAL VOTE ON PRESIDENT'S TENURE ON JULY 27. RECENTLY TERM, "CONSENSUS MEETINGS" HAS BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE JULY 21/22 BARANGAY CONSULTATIONS.

2. MAKATI RESIDENTS AND, PRESUMABLY, THOSE IN OTHER BARRIOS HAVE BEEN CIRCULARIZED WITH CALL TO JULY 21/22 MEETINGS TO DEAL WITH FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. DO YOU WANT A LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT SINCE YOU DON'T WANT AN INTERIM ASSEMBLY AS STATED IN THE LAST PLEBISCITE?

2. (IF THE ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1 IS YES): AND LET THE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL SELECT A SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESIDENT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY?

3. HOW LONG DO YOU WANT THE PRESIDENT TO SERVE HIS EXTENSION TERM?

VOTING WILL BE BY VOICE VOTE. NO LOCAL ISSUES ARE RAISED IN THE CIRCULAR.

3. COMMENT: THESE QUESTIONS DEAL WITH SAME SUBJECTS AS THOSE REPORTED REFTEL, THOUGH FORMULATION STRESSES ROLE OF LAC WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. QUESTION OF SUCCESSION IS ONE IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN GENUINE AND WIDESPREAD INTEREST NOT ONLY ON ALL LEVELS OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY BUT ALSO AMONG CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS. SOME UNCERTAINTY IN THIS REGARD HAS APPEARED AMONG LATTER, BUT HAS BEEN MORE EVIDENT IN FILIPINO BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AMONG FILIPINOS THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING CONCERN THAT EITHER CHAOS OR HARSH MILITARY DICTATORSHIP COULD FILL VOID LEFT BY SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF MARCOS FROM SCENE.
HAMILTON

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